

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 2, 5, 9, and 12 are cancelled herein without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-9, 11, and 14-20 are pending. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 11, 13, 16, and 17 are amended, and claim 20 is added. Claims 1, 8, and 20 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states that claims 3-6, 10, 12, 13, 15-17, and 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the early indication of allowable subject matter in this application. In response,

independent claims 1 and 8 have been amended to include a combination of elements not taught or suggested by the references cited by the Examiner; and

independent claim 20 has been added to combine the allowable subject matter of objected-to claim 15, base claim 8, and intervening claim 14.

Therefore, independent claims 1, 8, and 20 are in condition for allowance.

Claim for Priority

The Examiner has acknowledged the Applicants' claim for foreign priority.

Information Disclosure Citation

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the reference supplied with the Information Disclosure Statements filed on March 24, 2004 and August 25, 2004, and for providing Applicants with an initialed copies of the PTO forms filed therewith.

Amendments to the Specification

Paragraph [0004] of the specification has been amended merely to correct a typographical error. JP 9-89012 was properly disclosed on the IDS filed on March 24, 2004.

Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1, 2, and 8 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 8 of U.S. Patent No. 7,097,190 to Matsumoto et al. in view of FR 2711351. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, the Applicants are herewith submitting a Terminal Disclaimer disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on the present application which would extend beyond the expiration of U.S. Patent No. 7,097,190. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 1, 2, 7-9, 11, 14, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lan (U.S. 5,292,286) in view of FR 2711351.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claims 1 and 8

As mentioned above, and while not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, each of independent claims 1 and 8 has been amended to recite a combination of elements directed to a transmission device for a bicycle including *inter alia*

wherein said driving rotating member (sprocket) and said one-way clutch are arranged coaxially with said crankshaft and at positions where they do not overlap each other in a direction (A3) of the rotating central line (L3) of the crankshaft.

Support for the features above can be found in the specification as originally filed, for example, in paragraph [0040]. See also FIG. 2.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in each of independent claims 1 and 8 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Lan and FR 2711351.

First of all, the Examiner concedes that Lan fails to teach a one-way clutch. The Examiner then asserts that FR 2711351 teaches "a sprocket assembly (2) rotatably connected

to a crankshaft (8) about an axis (11) and including a one-way clutch (4-6) on the crankshaft and the sprocket members”.

However, as can be seen in the Abstract and FIG. 1 of FR 2711351, this document merely discloses a wheel 2 with pinion teeth 7 that engage with pawls (4-6). As can be seen in FIG. 1 of FR 2711351, wheel 2 and elements 4-6 do overlap each other in a direction of the rotating central line 11 of the crankshaft.

At least for the reasons explained above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in each of independent claims 1 and 8 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Lan and FR 2711351.

Therefore, independent claims 1 and 8 are in condition for allowance.

Independent Claim 20

As mentioned above, and while not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, independent claim 20 has been added to combine the subject matter of objected-to claim 15, base claim 8, and intervening claim 14.

Dependent Claims

The Examiner will note that dependent claims 3, 4, 6, 11, 13, 16, and 17 are amended.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

All pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

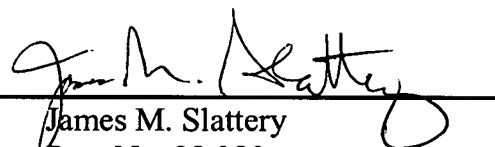
CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 208-4030(direct line).

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,
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Attachments: Terminal Disclaimer